

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 140592 TOSEC 060070
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TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 140592 TOSEC 060070

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FOR THE SECRETARY FROM CHRISTOPHER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS)

SUBJECT: EVENING READING

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF THURSDAY'S EVENING READING:

1. LEGISLATION. AS MENTIONED IN LAST NIGHT'S NOTE, THE STATE DEPARTMENT AUTHORIZATION BILL WAS REPORTED WITH A MCGOVERN AMENDMENT SUPPORTING OUR POLICY OF A PHASED WITHDRAWAL OF GROUND TROOPS FROM KOREA. THIS MORNING SENATOR BYRD JOINED SENATOR MCGOVERN IN A MODIFICATION OF HIS AMENDMENT WHICH WOULD HAVE AFFIRMED THE SENATE SUPPORT FOR THE WITHDRAWAL POLICY BUT INSURED CONTINUING CONSULTATION, ANNUAL REPORTS, AND OTHER SWEETENERS FOR THE CONSERVATIVES. THE BYRD/MCGOVERN AMENDMENT WAS THEN WATERED DOWN ON THE FLOOR SO THAT IT NEITHER AFFIRMS NOR REPUDIATES THE WITHDRAWAL POLICY, AND WAS FINALLY ADOPTED BY A LARGE MAJORITY. IN THE PROCESS, SENATOR DOLE'S

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 140592 TOSEC 060070

TABLING MOTION, WHICH WOULD HAVE MEANT AN OUTRIGHT REPUDIATION OF THE WITHDRAWAL POLICY, WAS DEFEATED BY 68 TO 26 WITH UNANIMOUS DEMOCRATIC SUPPORT.

THE RESULT MAY BE CONSTRUED BY SOME AS A SETBACK FOR THE ADMINISTRATION POLICY, ALTHOUGH THE LANGUAGE OF THE AMENDMENT ITSELF DOES NOT HAVE THAT PRACTICAL EFFECT.

INDEED, THE RESULT WAS DRAMATICALLY BETTER THAN IT WOULD HAVE BEEN IF THE DOLE FORCES HAD SUCCEEDED IN STRIKING THE MCGOVERN LANGUAGE COMPLETELY, WHICH WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY HAVE HAPPENED WITHOUT BYRD'S HELP.

THE SENATE ALSO DEBATED A DOLE AMENDMENT WHICH WOULD HAVE PREVENTED NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS WITH CUBA UNTIL PRISONERS WERE RELEASED, TROOPS WITHDRAWN FROM AFRICA, AND SO FORTH. BYRD STOPPED THE DOLE AMENDMENT WITH AN ACCEPTABLE SUBSTITUTE. IT WILL TAKE US SOME TIME TO ANALYZE THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS WEEK'S BARRAGE OF FOREIGN POLICY VOTES IN THE SENATE, BUT IT IS PLAIN NOW THAT WE FACE A COALITION OF REPUBLICANS AND CONSERVATIVE DEMOCRATS WHICH WILL BE A CONSIDERABLE CHALLENGE TO MOST OF OUR FOREIGN POLICY INITIATIVES.

2. LIBYA. THE U.S. PRESS HAS PLAYED UP QADHAFI'S RECENT SPEECH IN WHICH HE CALLED FOR AN IMPROVEMENT IN U.S.-LIBYAN RELATIONS, INCLUDING AN EXCHANGE OF AMBASSADORS. OUR READING IS THAT THE SPEECH, ALTHOUGH RELATIVELY RESTRAINED FOR QADHAFI, BROKE NO NEW GROUND. HE REITERATED HIS ALLEGATIONS OF U.S. IMPERIALISM AND TIED HIS APPEAL FOR IMPROVED RELATIONS TO U.S. ACCEPTANCE OF A LIBYAN AMBASSADOR AND OUR WILLINGNESS TO EXPORT MILITARY EQUIPMENT, INCLUDING THE C-130S, TO LIBYA. WE HAVE RECEIVED NOTHING OFFICIAL FROM THE LIBYAN GOVERNMENT ON THE QUESTION OF IMPROVED RELATIONS. AND THERE IS NO EVIDENCE SO FAR THAT QADHAFI IS PREPARED TO MODIFY LIBYA'S POLICIES IN ANY SIGNIFICANT WAY.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 140592 TOSEC 060070

3. PAKISTAN. THE AGREEMENT TO HOLD NEW NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS WILL REDUCE THE POSSIBILITY OF VIOLENCE FOR SEVERAL MONTHS, ALTHOUGH HARD POLITICKING CAN BE EXPECTED AND EMOTIONS ARE STILL NEAR THE SURFACE. IT REMAINS UNCERTAIN HOW BHUTTO WISHES TO REACT TO THE OPENING CY PROVIDED IN HIS MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER AZIZ AHMED IN PARIS. IN A SPEECH TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY THIS WEEK, BHUTTO MADE A SOMEWHAT POSITIVE REFERENCE TO THE VANCE-AHMED CONVERSATION, BUT THEN REPEATED A NUMBER OF NOW-STANDARD GRIEVANCES, INCLUDING REFERENCES TO ALLEGED AMERICAN INTERFERENCE. THERE CONTINUES TO BE A VERY GOOD CHANCE THAT BHUTTO WILL FIND THE ANTI-AMERICAN THEME TOO VALUABLE TO GIVE UP AS THE COUNTRY GEARS UP FOR THE NEW ELECTIONS.

4. FAHMY VISIT TO MOSCOW. EGYPTIAN FOREIGN MINISTER FAHMY'S JUNE 9-11 VISIT TO MOSCOW PRODUCED NO SUBSTANTIVE RESULTS. HOWEVER, THE TALKS APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN CONDUCTED

IN A GENERALLY CORDIAL ATMOSPHERE DESPITE A FRANK DISCUSSION OF GRIEVANCES BY BOTH SIDES. FEAR THAT THE MIDDLE EAST PEACE EFFORT WILL EITHER COLLAPSE OR BOG DOWN INDEFINITELY IS, WE THINK, THE PRIMARY REASON THAT EGYPT HAD NOT BROKEN EVEN MORE SHARPLY WITH THE SOVIET UNION. WE BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT SADAT'S PERSONAL ANIMOSITY TO THE RUSSIANS, AS WELL AS SOVIET SUPPORT OF LIBYA AND OTHER RADICAL AFRICAN REGIMES, WILL PRECLUDE A FULL RAPPROCHEMENT IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

5. INDOCHINA REFUGEES. REPRESSIVE POLITICAL CONDITIONS AND THE POOR ECONOMIC SITUATION IN ALL THREE INDOCHINA STATES MEAN A CONTINUING FLOW OF REFUGEES. WE HAVE BEEN WORKING WITH AID AND THE IMMIGRATION SERVICE ON NEW APPROACHES TO THIS PROBLEM, AND WE PLAN NEW APPROACHES TO THE AUSTRALIANS, FRENCH AND THE UN HIGH COMMISSION FOR REFUGEES LOOKING TOWARD PERMANENT REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 04 STATE 140592 TOSEC 060070

THE JAPANESE HAVE ALLOWED THE REFUGEES MENTIONED IN THE JUNE 8 NEW YORK TIMES STORY TO STAY TEMPORARILY. HOWEVER, PERMANENT RESETTLEMENT OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES IN JAPAN, AS WELL AS OTHER ASIAN STATES, IS EXTREMELY DIFFICULT AND EVEN PERMISSION FOR A TEMPORARY STAY IS HARD TO OBTAIN. CHRISTOPHER

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